



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

January 30, 1997

Dear Reviewer:

This draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed *Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project* is submitted for your review and comment. This EIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts from natural gas development proposed by several companies within an area located in Natrona County approximately 60 miles west of Casper, Wyoming, situated primarily north of Waltman, Wyoming.

Over the next 10 years, the companies propose to drill up to 160 wells in addition to the 42 currently in place to obtain the maximum recovery of natural gas from existing Federal, State, and private oil and gas leases. Additional roads and pipelines would be necessary to link the wells with existing transportation pipelines and vehicle access to the area. A natural gas liquids recovery plant, as well as natural gas compression facilities, is also proposed.

The final EIS will be based on substantive comments received by April 1, 1997. Comments received after this date may be considered in preparing the final EIS but may not be included in the set of comments reproduced for the final EIS. Comments should be as specific as possible, addressing suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments containing only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response; however, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

There will be a public meeting on Tuesday March 11, 1997, at the UW Natrona County Cooperative Extension Building, 2011 Fairgrounds Road, Casper, Wyoming. The meeting will be in two parts beginning with an "Open House" from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. followed by a public meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to receive comments on the draft EIS.

This draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations and statutes to address possible environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from the project and to solicit public comments and concerns. This EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public of the impacts associated with implementing the companies' drilling proposal and to evaluate alternatives to the proposal. This EIS is also intended to provide information to other regulatory agencies for use in their decision making process for other permits required for implementation of the project.

Please retain this copy of the EIS for future reference. A copy of the EIS has been sent to affected Government agencies and to those persons who responded to scoping or otherwise indicated to BLM they wished to receive a copy of the EIS. Copies of the EIS are available for public inspection at the following locations:

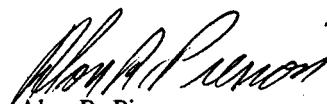
Bureau of Land Management
Casper District Office
1701 East "E" Street
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Bureau of Land Management
Platte River Res. Area Office
815 Connie Street
Mills, Wyoming 82644

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Please address comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Casper District Office, Attn: Kate Padilla, Team Leader, 1701 East "E" Street, Casper, WY 82601

Sincerely,


Alan R. Pierson
State Director